

MR. WILLIS' ACTION

Saved President Cleveland From
Committing a Grave Error

AND GAVE MR. BLOUNT A BLACK EYE

Why Thurston Went to Honolulu—It was at the Request of Democratic and Republican Senators to Have a Republic Declared and Stop the President's Efforts to Enthrone the Queen—An Attempt by Democrats in the House to Smother Investigation of the Hawaiian Question.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24.—Every day something leaks out in connection with the great international question involving the United States and Hawaii, the diplomatic acts bearing upon which have held the world in awe for some time.

The latest story is that Minister Thurston's hurried departure was a result of a conference between him and a number of leading Democratic Senators, who begged him for heaven's sake to hurry to Honolulu as fast as railways and ships could carry him and urge his associates to declare a republic at once that the President might have no further opportunity to insist upon his policy of restoring the Queen.

It is alleged that other Democrats with certain Republicans had conferences with Mr. Thurston previous to his departure, which lead them to feel assured that the minister will carefully collect every detail of the visit of "Paradise Blount," as well as the acts of Minister Willis, under his original instructions, and will cause all of the information secured to be placed at the disposal of any committee of Congress which promises a full and fair investigation.

GRESHAM WAS EMBARRASSED.

While the movements of both of the agents of the Government have been to some extent made known by unofficial communications from Honolulu, as well as their own reports, it is believed that much remains behind, and at any rate that whatever is vital to the matter should be formally sought out and communicated to the investigators in a way which will leave no doubt that it is true to word and letter.

An official of the Government, who for years has had much to do with important actions of the state department, said to the correspondent: "Diplomatically speaking, the administration is out of the Hawaiian revolution. Minister Willis is to the Sandwich Islands just what any other minister is to any small country to which he may be accredited. He will assume no further authority. He is without a special mission at this moment."

"Just as annexation is dead as any movement to replace the queen on her throne is dead. I happen to know the contents of some of the dispatches from Willis, which were not transmitted to Congress with the President's message. One telegram from Gresham to Willis, which was read to Congress, said 'your (Willis) dispatch is somewhat embarrassing.'"

MINISTER WILLIS' GOOD SENSE.

"The truth is, every communication received from Willis has been embarrassing and distressingly so. Sent to Honolulu to carry out an administration policy based on the Blount report, Willis has given Blount a black eye at every turn, and his every report has been in opposition to the administration's policy. One of the strange acts in connection with the course of the President is the acceptance of the resignation of Blount."

"If Blount's report was true why was not Blount kept at Honolulu to enforce the policy of the administration and right the great wrong? He was the logical agent for the business. It is possible that Blount was so much ashamed of his own work that he refused to carry it farther. You see there are many things connected with this strange performance which as yet have been hardly touched upon. I see there are hints abroad that Willis is to be recalled. If I were President Cleveland I think I should recall him and promote him to one of the highest Ministerial positions within the gift of the government."

"He has saved the administration from one of the most ridiculous errors ever made by a civilized government, and deserves the heartiest thanks and the highest esteem of Democrats and Republicans alike. I am told that the committee of foreign relations of the senate intend to go to the bottom of the matter, both as to the acts of President Harrison and Stevens and Cleveland and Blount. I sincerely hope they will do so. It may humiliate some very estimable but mistaken persons, but it will teach future Presidents that this is a government of the people as represented in other branches besides the executive, and that the President cannot safely perpetrate a single act which suggests an assumption of dictatorial power."

There is increasing gossip in regard to the sharp contrast between the treatment of the Hawaiian affair in the house and that in the senate. A vast amount of grumbling is heard among the rank and file of the house Democracy on account of the proposition to smother all investigation of the acts of Cleveland and Blount and at the same time raise a great howl and cry against Harrison and Stevens and Blaine.

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BIG FAILURE AT PITTSBURGH.

Fleishman & Co., the Well Known Merchants Suspend on Account of Inability to Make Collections.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 24.—Fleishman & Co.'s extensive department stores at 504-508 Market street were closed by the sheriff at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon on executions aggregating \$100,173.28.

The seizure caused great excitement in the downtown shipping district, and the sheriff's deputy had scarcely closed the doors of the establishment until a pushing, jostling crowd filled Market street from Liberty to Fifth avenue. Inside the store the surprise was even greater.

Immediately the doors were locked and instructions issued to the heads of the departments to stop the sale of goods. The people at first did not understand, and some were inclined to make trouble at having their Christmas shopping so rudely interrupted. As soon as the usual notices were posted on the doors were opened and those inside allowed to pass out. The clerks were then set to work to replace the goods lying on the counters, and an hour later the store was in darkness and the entrance blocked by a high iron fence.

The firm is composed of S. L. Fleishman and B. May. They have been in business for the past six years, and were rated among the most successful and solid firms in the city. Mr. Fleishman has been a merchant in Pittsburgh for over twenty years.

Until a week ago the firm had no idea that they were in any special danger, though they realized that on account of the difficulty of making collections the situation was serious. At that time several creditors came forward with claims which, by hard work, were met in full. The following day more claims were presented, which were paid.

Though somewhat embarrassed by these sudden demands, it was thought they could pull through if only confidence could be retained. But somehow a rumor got abroad that Fleishman & Co. were embarrassed, and in some unaccountable way this rumor quickly spread through the east, where the firm largely dealt.

It is said both Mr. Fleishman and Mr. May placed their entire private fortunes in the breach hoping to stay the tide of disaster, but claims poured in so fast that all could not be met, and confidential obligations were given the preference. Hope was not abandoned till two days ago, when it was seen that it would be useless to struggle longer, and the inevitable executions which came yesterday afternoon were calmly awaited.

No Pittsburgh houses are involved to any extent, and none of the claims are large enough to embarrass any of their eastern creditors.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES.

Farming in the South—Reports From North Carolina.

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 24.—The state commissioner of labor statistics has received reports from all over the state showing the following interesting facts: Average wages of farm laborers in North Carolina, for men, \$8 per month; for women, \$5; for children \$3, and "rations" and house room. Most of the farm labor is done by tenants, however, "on shares." In case the owner of the land "furnishes everything" (that is, horses, land, farm implements, house, etc., but not rations) the tenant gets one-fourth of the crop he makes. If the tenant furnishes and feeds his team and implements, he gets one-half. In most cases farm labor, which is most wholly black, is reported to be ample in quantity. About half the reports state that land has decreased in value during the last five years. The tendency is toward smaller farms and better cultivation. The bulk of farmers have made improvements and the fertility of the land is maintained. There is a noticeable improvement in the mode of farming all over the state.

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Holiday Rates.

The Ohio River railroad will sell on December 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31, 1893, and January 1, 1894, excursion tickets between all points on its line at one fare for the round trip, with return limit January 2, 1894.

W. J. ROBINSON, G. P. A.

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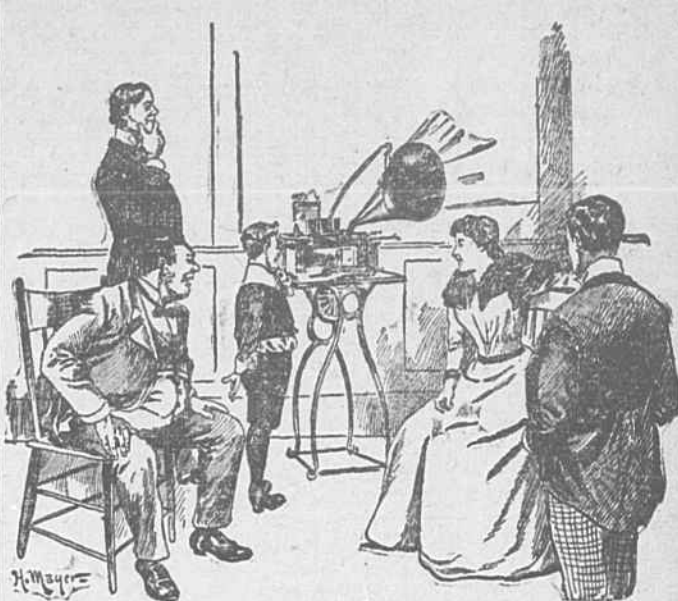
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